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Message Text

SECRET

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44
ACTION SS-25

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDSI
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: COMMENTS ON FEBRUARY 28 MEETING (SALT TWO-537)

1. IN TODAY'S MEETING I OPENED WITH FURTHER STATEMENT ON MIRV VERIFICATION, SEMENOV THEN MADE LONG, INVOLVED STATEMENT ON FBS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THRID COURTRIES IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE XIII OF SOVIET DRAFT, SHCHUKIN SHCHUKIN MADE STATEMENT REPEATING THEIR PREVIOUS POSITION ON MIRV VERIFICATION, AND BELETSKY MADE STATEMENT REJECTING ANY EFFORT TO CHANGE IA DEFINITION OF HEAVY ICBMS.

2. IN HIS STATEMENT SHCHUKIN CHARACTERIZED OUR PROPOSED ANSWERS TO MIRV VERIFICATION AS "UNACCEPTABLE" AND IN OUR BILATERAL SEMENOV ASKED THAT I "INFORM"WASHINGTON THAT THIS WAS CONSIDERED SOVIET POSITION. HOWEVER, IN MY BILATERAL WITH SEMENOV, AND IN ROWNY'S AND EARLE'S JOINT CONVERSATION WITH SHCHUKIN, BELETSKY AND RRUSOV, WE PRESSED HARD FOLLOWINT UP ON THEME IN MY STATEMENT TODAY T O
EFFECT THAT ESSENCE OF PROBLEMS WAS "WHEN A SOVIET LAUNCHER IS OF A TYPE THAT HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A TYPE OF MISSILE WHIHC HAS BEEN TESTED WITH MIRVS, HOW CAN THE US DETERMINE (BY OUR OWN
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NATIONATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS) THAT THE LAUNCHER DOES NOT CONTAIN A

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MIRVED MISSILE." SOVIET ANSWER THAT WE CAN DO SO IN CONTRARY TO
OUR OWN CAREFUL ANALYSIS. WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN
HEARING WHAT SOVIETS HAVE TO SAY, IF THEY CAN TELL US HOW WE CAN.
IN EACH CASE (SEMENOV WITH ME AND TRUSOV, BELETSKY AND SHCHUKIN
WITH ROWNY AND EARLE) THEY EVENTUALLY WERE TEMPTED INTO POSITION OF
IMPLYING THAT THEY HAD SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH US DEPLOYMENTS. IN
RESPONSE WE POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID THEY HAD
NO PROBLEMS BUT, IF IN FACT THEY DID, WE WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS
SOLUTIONS WITH THEM. ADDITIONALLY, IN THEIR CONVERSATION WITH
ROWNY AND EARLE, TRUSOV AND SHCHUKIN LAID GREAT EMPHASIS ON ASSER-
TION THAT OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AND WITH A SERIES OF OBSERVATIONS
"BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS" WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DISTINGUIS BETWEEN
MIRVED AND UNMIRVED LAUNCHERS. THEY DREW ON ANALOGY OF ABILITY
TO PROCESS RADAR DATA SO AS TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN SIGNAL AND
NOISE. THEY ALSO STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT THERE WERE NEW DEVELOPMENTS
ON HORIZON OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS THAT WOULD ENABLE THIS
TO BE DONE.

3. IN OUR BILATERAL I SOUGHT LIGHTLY TO DISMISS SEMENOV'S STATEMENT
ON FBS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THRID COUNTRIES TODAY BY SAYING THAT
HIS THEME AND LANGUAGE SOUNDED VERY FAMILIAR AND, FOR A TIME
DURING THE COURSE OF HIS STATEMENT, I WAS WORRIED THAT HE INTENDED
TO INTRODUCE THESE ITEMS INOT OUR PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN
LEAVING THEM TO OUR SUCCESSORS. HE RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE VERY
IMPORTANT AND FUNDAMENTAL AND THAY HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO THIS
SUBJECT IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS.

;. NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MARCH 4.JOHNSON

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